

REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of October 18th, 2004

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force


On Tuesday, October 19, 2004, Travius Bateman, one of the city of Atlanta's *Ten Most Wanted* criminals, was captured in southwest Atlanta by members of the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) and members of the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations. Bateman had numerous outstanding warrants for violent crimes and is a prime suspect in an Atlanta homicide which occurred on September 14, 2004. On that day, it is alleged that Bateman and two accomplices arranged a meeting with a suspected narcotics dealer at that individual's residence for the purpose of conducting a drug deal. In reality, it was a set-up for a robbery during which time Bateman fatally shot the victim.

The Atlanta Police Department requested the assistance of the SERFTF in apprehending Bateman, who was considered to be an extremely dangerous and violent felon. With the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group, SERFTF investigators, after conducting surveillance at many locations throughout the metro Atlanta area, observed an individual fitting Bateman's description walking through a residential complex. As SERFTF agents moved in to arrest of the subject, Bateman attempted to flee on foot. After several blocks, the subject was caught and placed under arrest. Bateman had four outstanding warrants for armed robbery, aggravated assault, carjacking, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He also has eleven previous arrests, the majority of which were for armed robbery, aggravated assault and narcotics violations.



Travius Bateman

**Wanted for Homicide,
Armed Robbery,
Aggravated Assault,
Carjacking, Possession
of a Firearm by a
Convicted Felon**

<p>New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force</p> <p>The Lowell, Massachusetts Police Department requested the assistance of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force in locating and arresting David Montalvo, who was wanted for robbery 1st degree and for a reprisal shooting. Montalvo, a Latin King gang member, is a career criminal with 4 felony convictions. His criminal history includes previous arrests for robbery, two assault arrests, criminal possession of a weapon, and criminal possession of a controlled substance. On October 20, 2004, Task Force members located and arrested Montalvo in the Bronx, New York.</p>	 <p>David Montalvo</p> <p>Wanted for Robbery and for a Reprisal Shooting</p>
<p>Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force</p> <p>On October 4, 2004, Robert Cooper, a sex offender registered in the state of Maryland, was charged with aggravated sexual battery of a 13-year-old child by the Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department. Cooper, who has previous arrests for child sexual abuse and 2nd degree rape, received a ten year prison sentence in 1994. On October 18, 2004, investigators from the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Arlington County, Virginia, Police Department arrested Cooper following a surveillance in which Cooper was engaged in conversation with a group of children waiting at a school bus stop. Authorities in Prince Georges County, Maryland are expected to charge Cooper with three more counts of child sexual battery in the near future.</p>	 <p>Robert Cooper</p> <p>Wanted for Aggravated Sexual Battery of a Minor</p>
<p>Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force</p> <p>On October 14, 2004, a warrant was issued by the Lake County Sheriff's Department for Epifanio Marrero for sexual misconduct with a minor and dealing cocaine. Marrero was charged after a 14-year-old high school freshman told Lake County detectives that she previously had sex with Marrero several times and was pregnant with his child. On October 19, 2004, Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) investigators developed information that the subject was residing in Gary, Indiana. As investigators approached the residence, they observed a male subject sneaking through the backyard. Investigators apprehended the individual and positively identified him as Marrero. In his possession was a loaded .38 caliber revolver hidden in his waistband, a small scale located in his pants pocket, and approximately ½ ounce of marijuana hidden inside his pants. Marrero was arrested and was additionally charged with felon in possession of a firearm and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.</p>	 <p>Epifanio Marrero</p> <p>Wanted for Sexual Misconduct with a Minor and Drug Charges</p>

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Jeffrey Griffin and Jesse Valdivia were arrested in Pomona, California by members of the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSW RFTF) and agents of the California Department of Corrections (CDC) and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE). Griffin was wanted by the CDC for parole violation, by the Pomona, California, Police Department for assault with a deadly weapon, and by the Montclair, California, Police Department for assault with a deadly weapon. Both of the assault cases stemmed from prior shooting incidents in which Griffin, a member of the “Monte Clara” street gang from Montclair, allegedly shot at and missed rival gang members. Valdivia, also a “Monte Clara” gang member, was wanted by the CDC for parole violation and was wanted for questioning by the Pomona and Montclair Police Departments in connection with the two shootings with which Griffin had been charged. During the course of attempting to arrest Griffin and Valdivia, the two suspects used the stolen vehicle that they were driving to ram into three law enforcement vehicles, causing extensive property damage to the vehicles. Valdivia was shot by a law enforcement officer as a result of the ramming incident, during the course of which he allegedly attempted to run over a member of the arrest team. He was treated and released from a local hospital and both suspects were booked on their outstanding warrants as well as a new charge of attempted murder of a peace officer.



Jesse Valdivia



Jeffrey Griffin

**Wanted for Assault
with a Deadly Weapon**